

10/030172  
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217828US-230925-235591-2-PCT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :  
YASUYU ITOH ET AL : ATTN: APPLICATION DIVISION  
SERIAL NO: NEW U.S. PCT APPLN :  
(Based on PCT/JP01/00073)  
FILED: HEREWITH :  
FOR: BIDDING SYSTEM :

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Prior to a first examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified  
application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 3-9 to read as follows:<sup>1</sup>

3. (Amended) The bidding system according to claim 1, wherein the bidding price  
range information is information made up of a predetermined price range including the  
bidding price.

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<sup>1</sup>A marked-up copy of the amended claims is attached.

4. (Amended) The bidding system according to claim 1, wherein the fee calculation means calculates the fee using a table correlating the bidding price range information with fee information.

5. (Amended) The bidding system according to claim 1, wherein the fee calculation means calculates the winning bidding fee based on the winning bidder information and the bidding price range information.

6. (Amended) The bidding system according to claim 1, wherein the bidding system further comprises, on a bidder's terminal, means for comparing the bidding price information entered by the bidder with bidding range information, and prompting the bidder reenter a bidding price in case of an inconsistency.

7. (Amended) The bidding system according to claim 1, wherein the bidding system further comprises means for restricting participation in the bidding if a bidder does not agree to payment of the bidding fee.

8. (Amended) The bidding system according to claim 1, wherein the bidding system further comprises means for restricting participation in the bidding if a bidder does not enter a method for payment of the bidding fee.

9. (Amended) The bidding system according to claim 1, wherein the bidding system further comprises means for confirming a bidder's ability to settle payment, based on a method of payment of the bidding fee entered by the bidder, and means for restricting participation in the bidding if the bidder's ability to settle payment cannot be confirmed with that confirmation means.

Please add new Claims 17-23 as follows:

17. (New) The bidding system according to claim 2, wherein the bidding price range information is information made up of a predetermined price range including the bidding price.

18. (New) The bidding system according to claim 2, wherein the fee calculation means calculates the fee using a table correlating the bidding price range information with fee information.

19. (New) The bidding system according to claim 2, wherein the fee calculation means calculates the winning bidding fee based on the winning bidder information and the bidding price range information.

20. (New) The bidding system according to claim 2, wherein the bidding system further comprises, on a bidder's terminal, means for comparing the bidding price information entered by the bidder with bidding range information, and prompting the bidder reenter a bidding price in case of an inconsistency.

21. (New) The bidding system according to claim 2, wherein the bidding system further comprises means for restricting participation in the bidding if a bidder does not agree to payment of the bidding fee.

22. (New) The bidding system according to claim 2, wherein the bidding system further comprises means for restricting participation in the bidding if a bidder does not enter a method for payment of the bidding fee.

23. (New) The bidding system according to claim 2, wherein the bidding system further comprises means for confirming a bidder's ability to settle payment, based on a method of payment of the bidding fee entered by the bidder, and means for restricting

participation in the bidding if the bidder's ability to settle payment cannot be confirmed with that confirmation means.

REMARKS

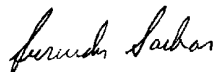
Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

The present Preliminary Amendment is submitted to cancel the multiple dependencies in original Claims 3-9. Further, new Claims 17-23 are submitted to recite the subject matter of the cancelled multiple dependencies.

The present application is believed to be in condition for a full and thorough examination on the merits. An early and favorable consideration of the present application is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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**Marked-Up Copy**

Serial No: \_\_\_\_\_

Amendment Filed on: \_\_\_\_\_

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

--3. (Amended) The bidding system according to claim 1 [or claim 2], wherein the bidding price range information is information made up of a predetermined price range including the bidding price.

4. (Amended) The bidding system according to claim 1 [or claim 2], wherein the fee calculation means calculates the fee using a table correlating the bidding price range information with fee information.

5. (Amended) The bidding system according to claim 1 [or claim 2], wherein the fee calculation means calculates the winning bidding fee based on the winning bidder information and the bidding price range information.

6. (Amended) The bidding system according to claim 1 [or claim 2], wherein the bidding system further comprises, on a bidder's terminal, means for comparing the bidding price information entered by the bidder with bidding range information, and prompting the bidder reenter a bidding price in case of an inconsistency.

7. (Amended) The bidding system according to claim 1 [or claim 2], wherein the bidding system further comprises means for restricting participation in the bidding if a bidder does not agree to payment of the bidding fee.

8. (Amended) The bidding system according to claim 1 [or claim 2], wherein the bidding system further comprises means for restricting participation in the bidding if a bidder does not enter a method for payment of the bidding fee.

9. (Amended) The bidding system according to claim 1 [or claim 2], wherein the bidding system further comprises means for confirming a bidder's ability to settle payment, based on a method of payment of the bidding fee entered by the bidder, and means for restricting participation in the bidding if the bidder's ability to settle payment cannot be confirmed with that confirmation means.--

Claims 17-23 (New).